

Comprehension Open-ended Worksheets P6 English Language CA1 2015

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Instruction

Read the passages and answer the following questions.

Note

This worksheet is based on latest MOE syllabus for Open-ended Comprehension.

P6 Comprehension Open-ended – CA1 – Nanyang

For nine uneventful hours in April 1998, the Petro Ranger had steamed north from Singapore through the South China Sea, bound for Ho Chi Minh City. Now, shortly after midnight chief engineer Farooq heard screams and people running past his cabin door. Then, his telephone rang. "Pirates aboard!" stuttered an engineer. Before the officer could marshal his thoughts, a voice outside called, "Chief! Chief!"

Opening the cabin door, Farooq saw Ken, the Petro Ranger's Australian captain, with hands bound and surrounded by three masked men. On seeing the men, Farooq was immobilised with fear. One pirate held a glinting knife with its blade across Captain Ken's throat. "Anyone gives me any trouble, I will kill him immediately," he threatened. He knew he could not help Ken without endangering Ken's life so he obeyed the pirate.

With the other twenty crewmen, Farooq was bound in the mess room. He guessed that the dozen pirates had boarded by hooking a ladder onto the stern deck. They painted *Wilby* over the ship's name and blacked out the "P" logo on the funnel of the ship. Farooq's suspicion was confirmed. They wanted not just its cargo of diesel oil. This was a hijack! He wondered if the crew would be killed. Somehow, these Asian pirates were different.

The Petro Ranger's crew were victims of a deepening problem in Asian waters. Asia's pirates were ruthless and sophisticated. Attacks in the region had nearly doubled during the past decade. In the past three years, pirates had taken some 1000 sailors hostage worldwide, killing a hundred and thirty-two.

By dawn, the pirates aboard the Petro Ranger. confident they faced no resistance, relaxed. Their leader did not disclose his plans for the ship or her crew. However, he told his captives that he came from Indonesia and complained that his men and he took the risks while his boss took the profits.

By the sixth day, Farooq noticed the weather was colder and wondered if they were headed to China. That night two small tankers pulled alongside and pumped out some diesel from the cargo.

The pirate leader appeared cheerful. "Because you have cooperated with us, we may let you live," he said. For Farooq and his shipmates, it was a glimmer of hope.

Ten days after the Petro Ranger was hijacked, armed Chinese police, thinking it was smuggling goods, seized the ship. Captain Ken managed to escape from the room where he had been tied up and told the police what had happened. Farooq noticed that the pirate leader seemed unperturbed as he and his fellow pirates were escorted to jail.

Shaken by their experiences on the Petro Ranger, Captain Ken and Farooq quit the sea. "If you're attacked on land, you can scream for help," Farooq told reporters. "At sea, you scream but nobody hears." The Petro Ranger was later fitted with "ShipLoc", a tiny concealed transmitter that enabled inexpensive satellite tracking of vessels.

(Adapted from *Sea of Danger*. Reader's Digest)

75. How did Farooq know that there were pirates aboard?

76. Explain clearly why Farooq decided not to help Captain Ken?

77. Which phrase in paragraph 2 shows that Farooq was too frightened to move?

78. How did the pirates get on board the Petro Ranger?

79. Give two reasons why the pirates boarded the Petro Ranger.

(1) _____

(2) _____

80. "Attacks in the region had nearly doubled during the past decade." (4th paragraph). What does the underlined phrase refer to?

81. Why was the pirate leader unhappy with his boss?

82. Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

Statement	True / False	Reason
Captain Ken overpowered the three pirates.		
The pirate leader let his captives live because he was a cheerful man.		
The Chinese police were not aware that Petro Ranger was hijacked when they seized the ship.		

83. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the passage.
- _____ Farooq and Captain decided to leave the job.
- _____ The pirates were arrested.
- _____ Two small tankers pumped out some of the cargo of diesel from Petro Ranger.

84. Find the words from paragraphs 8 and 9 which have the same meaning as the word(s) in the boxes. Use one word for each box.

unconcerned	
hidden	
took over	

P6 Comprehension Open-ended – CA1 – Methodist Girls'

Ulu Betau is in the northwest of Pahang and well up in the mountain range which separates the states of Pahang and Perak in Malaysia. It is a wild and magnificent place. However, for an elephant hunter, there cannot be a more treacherous place.

The place is covered by dense vegetation and cut up by valleys and ridges. Here, one measures progress in metres per day rather than kilometres per hour. I was there one day last year. 5

It was late that afternoon when I became aware of the immediate presence of the crop raider. At that time, I was struggling up a steep and slippery slope and the sound which gave it away was the rumbling of its belly, indicating that it was resting after a meal. It was a good sign suggesting that I might be able to take it unawares. The sound came from quite nearby but well above me. I could see nothing as I was in the middle of a bamboo thicket, but the wind was in my favour. 10

Something made it suspicious, possibly some kind of elephant 'sixth sense'. However, no sooner had I cleared the bamboo thicket than I heard it moving off up on to the ridge and towards the border. 15

Knowing that if it crossed the border into Perak, I could not follow and, eager for ivory, I threw caution to the winds. I cared not one jot to conceal myself, nor how much noise I made, and took off after it like a shot out of a gun. I flew, slithering, tripping and jumping. I was about 30 metres below the crest of the ridge where the elephant was.

Then I saw it. It stopped and turned around but with its head facing my direction. Its trunk was outstretched and waving at me, trying to get the scent of whatever it was causing all that noise below it. 20

With the elephant's poor eyesight in the failing light, and with dense bushes all about me, it was obvious that I could not be seen. I took aim at its head and fired.

For one second, the great animal stiffened, towering above me — a full five tonnes of mighty bone and muscle. Then it crumpled and started to slither down towards me. The slithering became a rush and it came bounding and crashing down the steep slope, bulldozing everything in its path. 25

(Adapted from Death of an Elephant , The Sunday Times)

71. Why do you think the elephant was referred to as the “crop raider” in line 8?

72. From paragraph three, how did the writer become aware of the presence of the elephant?

73. What does the word “It” in line 10 refer to? Why was it a good sign?

74. Based on paragraph three, do you think the writer was an experienced elephant hunter? How can you tell?

75. Why was the elephant unable to detect the scent of the writer?

76. Which three-word phrase from lines 16 – 19 tells us that the writer’s purpose in hunting the elephant?

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77. Choose words from line 16 – 19 which have similar meanings to the words below.

hide	
sliding	
top	

78. What made the writer act hastily in going after the elephant?

79. State two reasons why the writer was sure the elephant would not be able to see him just before he fired the shot.

1. _____

2. _____

80. Based on the passage, state whether each sentence in the table is true or false, then give one reason why you think so.

Statement	True / False	Reason
The writer was able to spot the elephant after he became aware of its presence.		
The elephant moved off because it sensed something was wrong.		
The writer was very careful when he went after the elephant that was moving off.		

Answer Key

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Subject: Primary 6 English – Comprehension Open Ended
Paper: CA1 2015

School: Nanyang

75. An engineer telephoned to inform him that there were pirates aboard.
76. A pirate held a knife across Captain Ken's throat and Farooq did not want to endanger Captain Ken's life.
77. immobilised with fear.
78. They hooked a ladder onto the stem deck and climbed aboard.
79. 1) They wanted the ship's cargo of diesel oil.
2) They wanted to hijack the ship.
80. Asian waters.
81. He and his men took risks while his boss took the profits.
82. False / His hands were bound and he was surrounded by the three pirates. He was held at knife point by a pirate.
False / His captives had cooperated with the pirates, so he let them live.
True / They thought the ship was smuggling goods.
83. 3, 2, 1
84. unperturbed, concealed, seized

School: Methodist Girls'

71. It probably destroyed the crops.
72. He heard the rumbling of the elephant's belly.
73. It refers to the elephant resting. It indicated that he might be able to catch it unawares.
74. Yes, I think he was. He could locate the elephant just by his sense of hearing.
75. The wind was blowing in the writer's favour.
76. eager for ivory
77. conceal, slithering, crest
78. If the elephant crossed the border into Perak, he would not be able to follow it.
79. 1) The elephant had poor eyesight in the failing light.
2) The writer had dense bushes around him.
80. False / The writer could see nothing as he was in the middle of a bamboo thicket.
True / Something made it suspicious and no sooner when the writer had cleared the bamboo thicket than he heard the elephant moving off.
False / He threw caution to the wind.